

MARVEL

5

WILSON
MELNIKOV
REBER



AH!

RATED T+

FELICIA HARDY is the **BLACK CAT**, the world's slyest and most skilled super-thief! Armed with her luck-altering abilities, there's no heist she can't pull off. The longer the odds, the better!

BLACK CAT

V. HERO TO ZERO

New York City's most dangerous super villains are taking notice of the Black Cat's super-heroics. While in Tombstone's custody, Felicia Hardy learned of a nefarious and illegal plot perpetrated by Peter Parker's brutal crimefighting replacement—the Resolute Spider-Man. Cat outsmarted and escaped Tombstone thinking she would confront the impostor Spidey—only to find herself surrounded by cops! It was all a setup!

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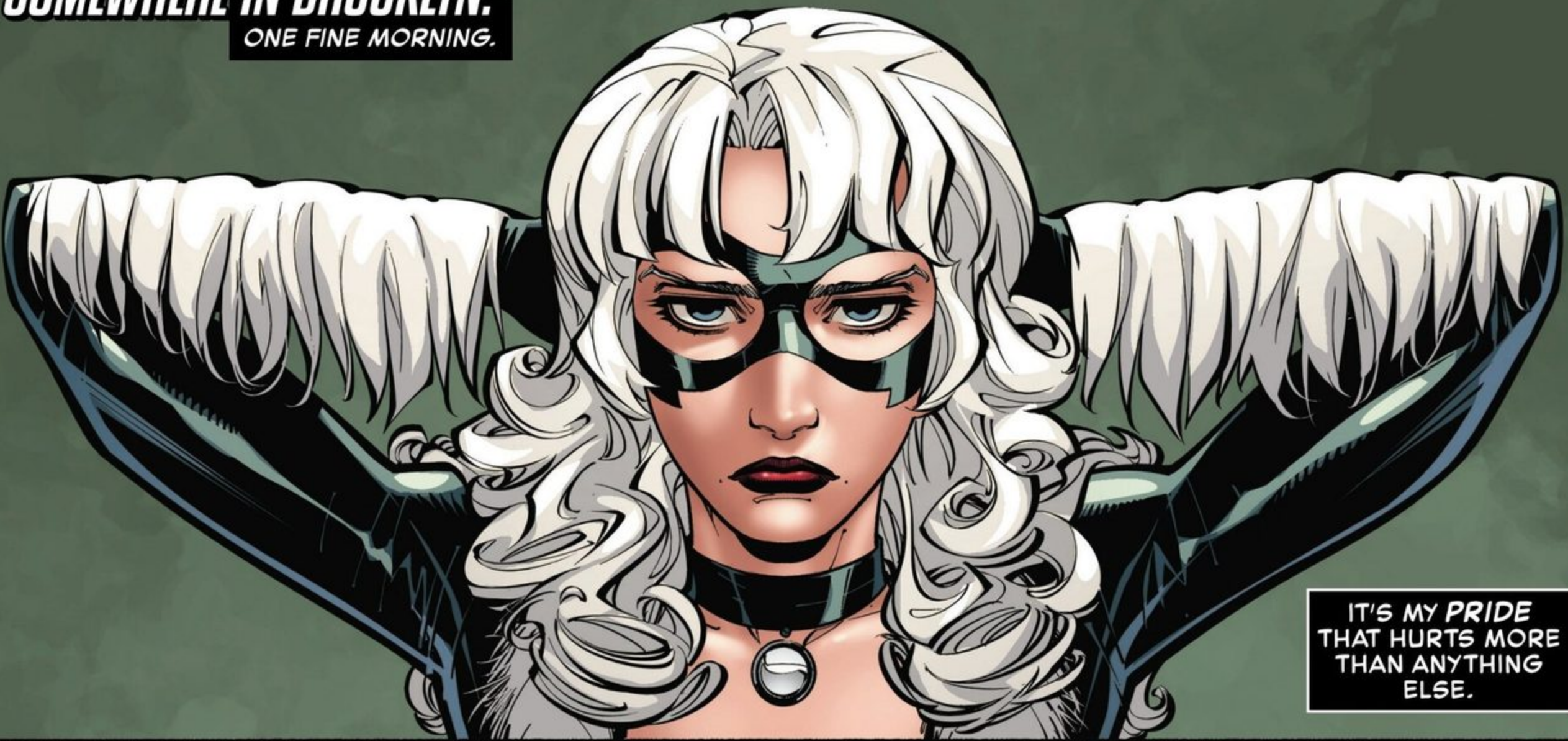
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SOMEWHERE IN BROOKLYN.
ONE FINE MORNING.



IT'S MY *PRIDE*
THAT HURTS MORE
THAN ANYTHING
ELSE.



I'M A *BIG GIRL*.
I UNDERSTAND
HOW THIS SLIPPERY
BUSINESS WORKS.

SOMETIMES, YOU SET
UP ONE OF YOUR *RIVALS*,
AND SOMETIMES, ONE
OF YOUR *RIVALS* SETS
YOU UP. IT'S NOT
PERSONAL.

HI, FELLAS.
NICE MORNING
FOR A *BUST*,
HUH?



BUT WALKING SMACK INTO A
SETUP THIS *BIG*, WITH YOUR
EYES WIDE OPEN? *OUCH*.

LOOK WHAT
WE HAVE HERE.
A *BLACK CAT*,
CAUGHT *RED-*
HANDED.

I'M
DETECTIVE
SHARI SEBBENS.
I'D LIKE TO ASK
YOU A FEW
QUESTIONS.



LISTEN, I KNOW WHAT THIS LOOKS LIKE.

BUT I SWEAR ON MY FATHER'S MEMORY THAT NONE OF THIS IS MINE.

I DON'T THINK THIS LOOKS LIKE ANYTHING YET. I'M JUST GATHERING EVIDENCE.

BUT WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME WHAT YOU THINK IT LOOKS LIKE?



I LIE A LOT. IT'S USEFUL. BUT SOMETIMES?

LIKE I'VE BEEN HOARDING SO MUCH CASH THAT YOU'VE FINALLY GOT ENOUGH EVIDENCE FOR AN INDICTMENT.

BUT THIS IS **TOMBSTONE'S**. HE MADE SURE I OVERHEARD HIM TELLING ONE OF HIS **GOONS** THAT ALL THIS BELONGS TO **SPIDER-MAN**, AND SINCE THERE'S SO MUCH WEIRD STUFF GOING ON RIGHT NOW, I--I ACTUALLY BELIEVED HIM--

SOMETIMES, THE TRUTH REALLY IS THE BEST POLICY.



EVEN IF THE TRUTH MAKES YOU LOOK LIKE AN IDIOT.



UH-HUH. SURE.

BUT HERE'S THE THING, B.C.-- CAN I CALL YOU B.C.?



THESE ARE **MARKED BILLS**. WE'VE BEEN TRACKING THEM FOR **MONTHS**-- WHO SPENDS THEM, HOW, AND WHERE THEY **END UP**.

THEY FILTERED THROUGH BACK-ALLEY DEALS, CASH-ONLY PURCHASES, ALL KINDS OF THINGS--UNTIL THEY ALL ENDED UP **HERE**. AT AN ABANDONED HOUSE...

...WITH YOUR NAME ON THE DEED.



HEY, **BLACK CAT**!
CAN YOU CHEAT
TOWARD THE **CAMERA**?
THIS ISN'T YOUR
BEST **ANGLE**--

WAS THE
CRIMEFIGHTING
SHTICK A SCAM
THIS WHOLE
TIME?

WHAT DO
YOU SAY TO
THE PEOPLE WHO
CLAIM THIS WAS ALL
A **PUBLICITY**
STUNT?

CLICK!

CLICK!

CLICK!

CLICK!

CLICK!

CLICK!

CLICK!

CLICK!

CLICK!
CLICK!

TELL US
ABOUT **DAREDEVIL**!
DOES HIS BUTT LOOK
AS NICE OUT OF THE
COSTUME AS IT
DOES *IN* IT?



LISTEN!
THIS IS ALL A
MISUNDERSTANDING!
I INTEND TO CLEAR
MY NAME--

KEEP
WALKING.



I DIDN'T DO WHATEVER THEY'RE
GOING TO SAY I DID--

I WAS *SERIOUS*
WHEN I SAID I *CARE*
ABOUT THIS CITY--IT WASN'T
JUST FOR THE
CAMERAS--

YESSS, SAY
MORE...TILT YOUR
CHIN DOWN SO WE GET
SOME JAW DEFINITION...



THAT'S
ENOUGH.
LET'S GO.

THERE'S
MORE TO THIS
STORY THAN JUST
GOOD GUYS
VERSUS BAD
GUYS!

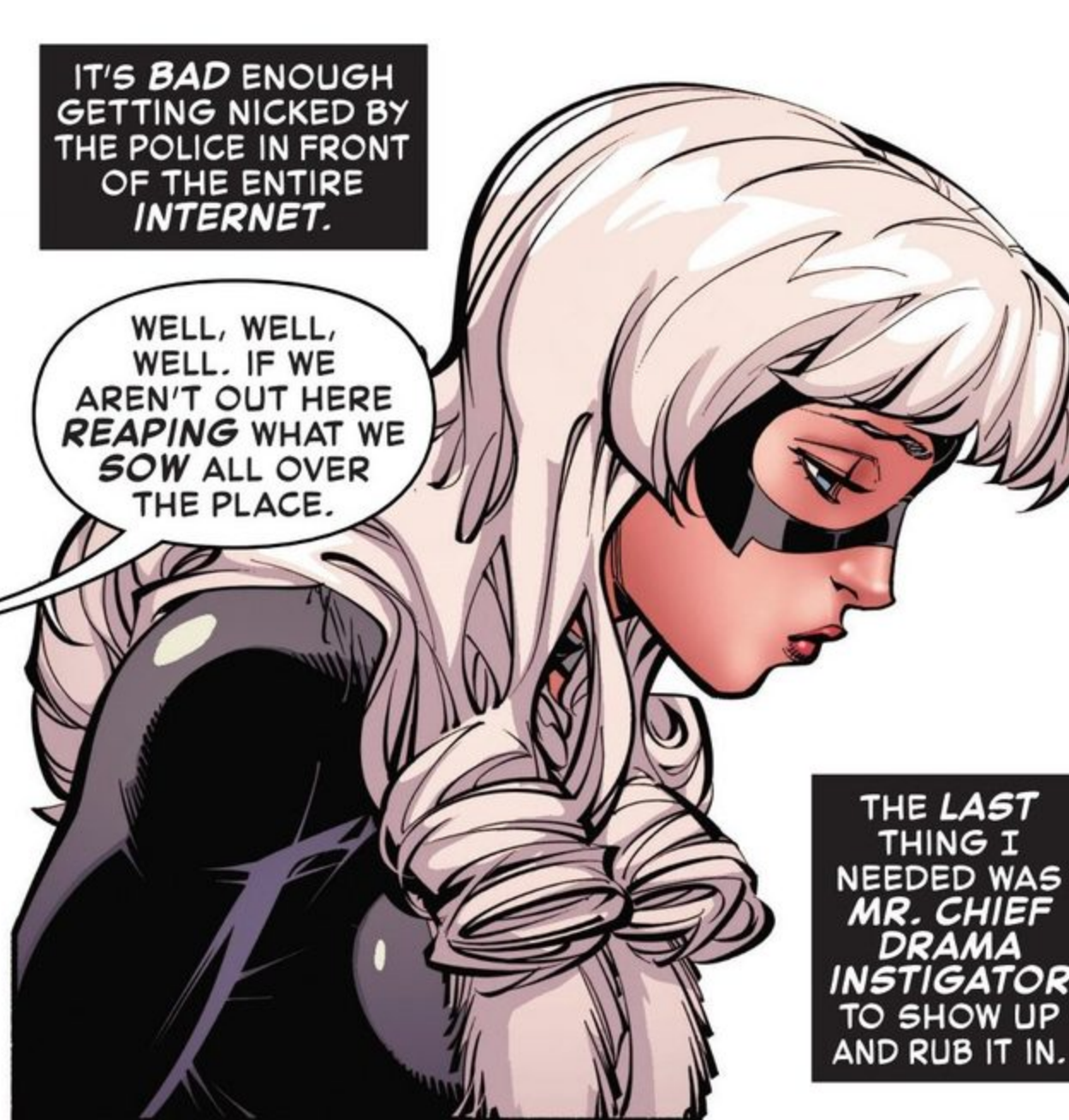
WHATEVER
HAPPENED TO
NUANCE?!

I SAID,
LET'S GO.



YOU'RE NOT
EVEN GONNA
STICK AROUND
FOR B-ROLL?!

...OKAY,
THEN.



IT'S *BAD* ENOUGH
GETTING NICKED BY
THE POLICE IN FRONT
OF THE ENTIRE
INTERNET.

WELL, WELL,
WELL. IF WE
AREN'T OUT HERE
REAPING WHAT WE
SOW ALL OVER
THE PLACE.

THE LAST
THING I
NEEDED WAS
MR. CHIEF
DRAMA
INSTIGATOR
TO SHOW UP
AND RUB IT IN.



I TOLD YOU
THIS WAS GOING
TO BLOW UP IN
YOUR FACE.

BUT IT WASN'T
ENOUGH FOR YOU
TO BE A CHARMING,
NOTORIOUS **THIEF**. YOU
ALSO HAD TO BE
POPULAR.

...JAMESON.

THIS IS
ALL YOUR
FAULT!

MY FAULT?!
I JUST REPORT
THE NEWS--

LIKE **HELL**
YOU DO! EVER
SINCE YOU LEFT THAT
CORPORATE RAG OF
A **DAILY BUGLE**, YOU'VE
BEEN CATERING TO THE
LOWEST COMMON
DENOMINATOR,
PUBLISHING
CLICKBAIT--

MADAM, I **NEVER** PUBLISH
CLICKBAIT. MY STORIES ARE
ALL IN THE **PUBLIC**
INTEREST.

OH YEAH?

COVERING
VIRAL VIDEOS AND
CELEBRITY GOSSIP LIKE
THEY'RE THE **WATERGATE**
SCANDAL? YOU THINK
THEY GIVE OUT PULITZERS
FOR **VLOGGING**
NOW?



IF YOU DON'T CALM DOWN,
I'M GONNA STUFF YOU
IN A SACK--

THIS
ISN'T OVER,
JAMESON!

YOU'RE
STILL MY
FAVORITE
THIEF, B.C.!

THESE
PHOTOS ARE
GONNA BE
GREAT!



I WAS READY TO FIGHT
EVERYBODY. THE POLICE,
THE PRESS, TOMBSTONE,
THAT ABSENTEE NERD
PETER PARKER...



...BUT THE WORST PART, THE
VERY WORST PART, WAS THE
FINGER WAGGING FROM ALL
THE COSTUMED CRIMEFIGHTERS
AND THEIR FLUNKIES. DAREDEVIL.
THAT STRETCHY KID. JAMESON.

STAY IN YOUR
LANE. PICK A ROLE.
PLAY A PART.



WHAT IF I WANNA
BE MORE THAN
ONE THING?

THEY'RE JUST JEALOUS
BECAUSE THEY'RE NOT
HAVING AS MUCH FUN
AS I AM.



SOME PEOPLE'S ONLY
PLEASURE IN LIFE IS
SAYING "I TOLD YOU SO."

BECAUSE THEY'RE ONLY
HAPPY MAKING OTHER
PEOPLE MISERABLE.

AT THE STATION.

A SHORT TIME LATER.

I ALWAYS TRY TO LOOK ON THE **BRIGHT SIDE**. SO I THOUGHT, MAYBE IN **JAIL** I'LL FINALLY HAVE TIME TO THINK. **PONDER**. FIGURE OUT HOW I LET **TOMBSTONE** PULL A FAST ONE ON ME. BUT I FORGOT ONE **CRITICAL** THING...

...WHEN YOU'RE A **THIEF**, ALL YOUR **FRIENDS** END UP IN **JAIL** WITH YOU.



TSSSSS!

TRANSLATION:
FANCY MEETING
YOU HERE.

SHUT UP,
YOU REPTILE.
YOU'RE **SHEDDING**.



HSSSSST!

TRANSLATION:
WHAT?! NO! I JUST
EXFOLIATED!

I
SHOULD'VE
KNOWN WE'D SEE
YOU IN HERE
EVENTUALLY, CAT.



HOW'S YOUR
PLAN TO BECOME
A **CRIMEFIGHTING**
JUSTICE INFLUENCER
GOING?



JUSTICE,
GIO?

JUSTICE AND
CRIMEFIGHTING
ARE TWO **DIFFERENT**
THINGS. I WASN'T
FIGHTING CRIME
TO **PROTECT**
PEOPLE.

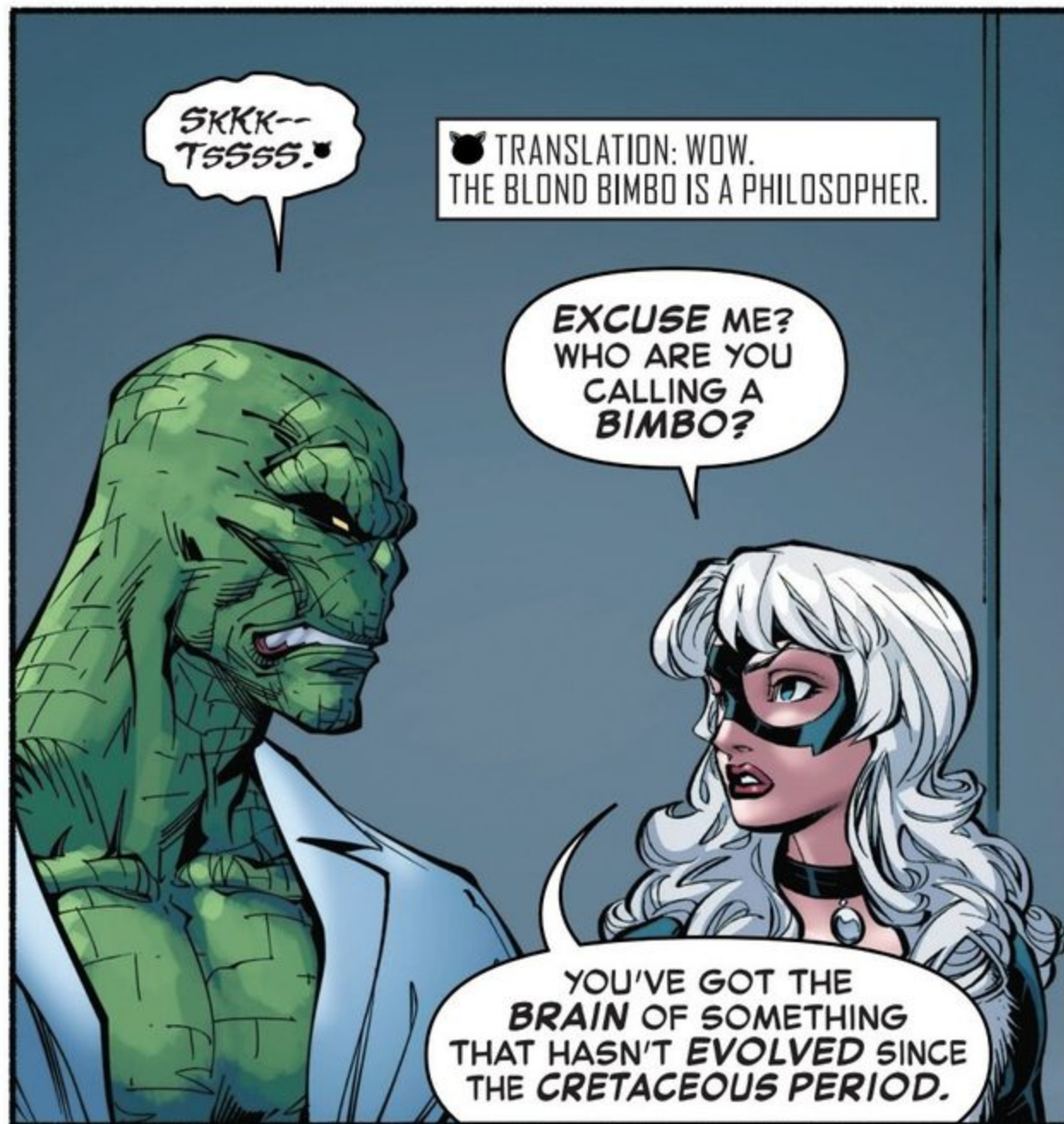
I WAS
FIGHTING CRIME
SO THEY'D FEEL
SAFE ENOUGH TO
LET ME PICK THEIR
POCKETS.





SO MAYBE I *DESERVE* THIS
FALL FROM GRACE.

BECAUSE I WAS
NEVER WHAT THE
INTERNET THOUGHT
I WAS TO BEGIN
WITH.



SKKK--
TSSSS!

TRANSLATION: WOW.
THE BLOND BIMBO IS A PHILOSOPHER.

EXCUSE ME?
WHO ARE YOU
CALLING A
BIMBO?

YOU'VE GOT THE
BRAIN OF SOMETHING
THAT HASN'T **EVOLVED** SINCE
THE **CRETACEOUS PERIOD**.



SKKKKR--
TSSSS!

TRANSLATION: YOU
WANNA GET INTO IT
HERE AND NOW, LADY?

ANYTIME,
ANY PLACE. I'M **NOT**
AFRAID OF CREEPY-
CRAWLIES.



THAT'S
ENOUGH!



YOU,
CAT
LADY.

YOUR
BOND HAS
POSTED. YOU'RE
BEING **RELEASED**
PENDING
INVESTIGATION.



SOMEBODY POSTED **BAIL** FOR ME?

...WHO?

A **REDHEAD**.
WAITING OUT
FRONT.



A **REDHEAD**...
INTERESTING...

I TRIED TO
ARGUE THAT YOU'RE
AN OBVIOUS **FLIGHT
RISK**.

BUT THE
JUDGE DIDN'T
SEE IT MY WAY.
THANK YOUR **LUCKY
STARS**, I
GUESS.



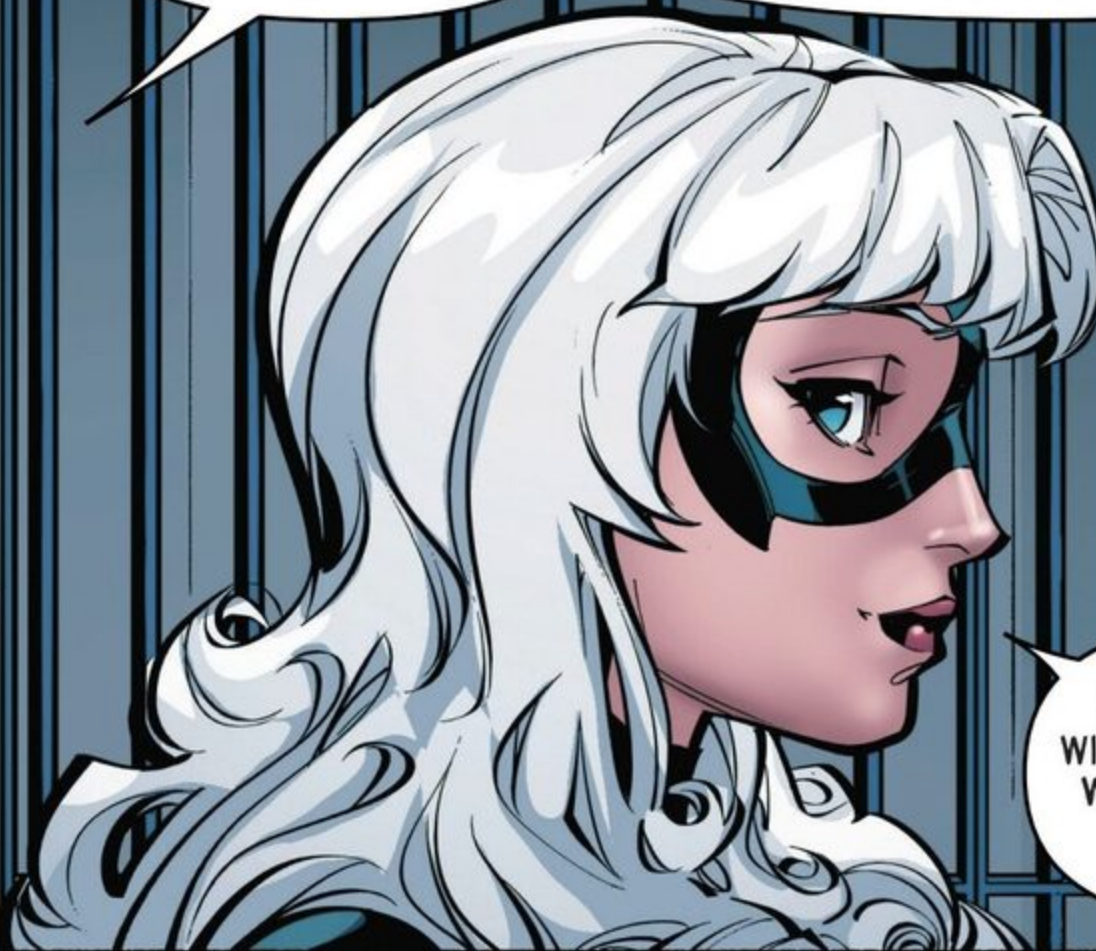
WHAT
CAN I **SAY**,
DETECTIVE?

THINGS
JUST SEEM TO
WORK OUT IN
MY **FAVOR**.



YOU GOTTA BE
CAREFUL WITH THAT
BREEZY ATTITUDE,
B.C.

THE **LAW** IS A TWISTY THING. YOU CAN WRIGGLE
OUT OF IT AND THINK YOU'RE FREE...ONLY TO
DISCOVER YOU'VE JUST TANGLED YOURSELF
UP EVEN WORSE.



MAYBE SO.
BUT IF IT'S OKAY
WITH YOU, I'D RATHER
WORRY ABOUT THE
TWISTY BITS
TOMORROW.



I ASSUMED IT **MUST**
BE MATT MURDOCK.
MAYBE **HE** WAS FEELING
A LITTLE SMITTEN TOO.
HOWEVER...

WELP. IT'S
YOUR LIFE.
DON'T SAY I
DIDN'T **WARN**
YOU.

YOUR
FRIEND IS
WAITING FOR
YOU OUT IN
THE LOBBY.

SOMETIMES, *LUCK* ISN'T
GETTING AWAY WITH THE *HEIST*
OR WALKING HOME WITH A
WINNING *LOTTERY* TICKET.

...YOU.

SOMETIMES, IT'S
THE *FRENEMY*
WHO SHOWS UP AT
EXACTLY THE
RIGHT MOMENT.

FACE IT,
CAT.

YOU
JUST HIT THE
JACKPOT.



I DON'T KNOW HOW TO *THANK* YOU, MJ.

OH, DON'T WORRY. YOU'RE GONNA PAY ME *BACK*. I PLAN TO *CALL* IN THIS FAVOR SOMEDAY *SOON*.

YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW *WEIRD* MY LIFE HAS GOTTEN RECENTLY...

THIS IS WHERE I ADMIT I DIDN'T REALLY *LISTEN* TO MJ'S SUBTLE CRY FOR HELP.

I MESSED UP.

I GOT *SLOPPY*, AND *SLOPPY* THIEVES GET *CAUGHT*.

YUP. BIG TIME.

THEY SURE DO.

I WAS TOO FOCUSED ON MY OWN PROBLEMS, AS USUAL. IT WOULD COME BACK TO *BITE* ME. BUT ANYWAY, THAT'S FOR *LATER*.

COME ON. LET'S GET *OUT* OF HERE. THIS IS GETTING *EMBARRASSING*. YOU'RE A *SOCIAL MEDIA* PERSONALITY NOW--YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE *CLINGY*.

I DON'T *CARE* ABOUT ALL THAT.

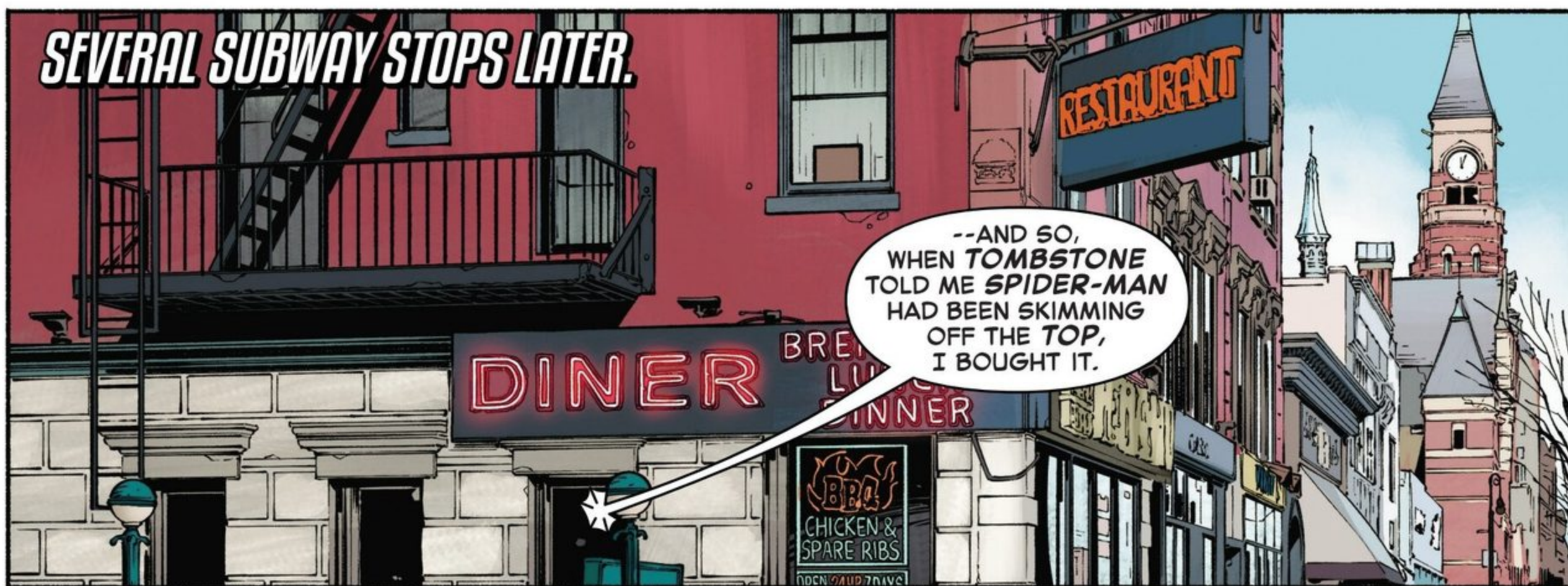
LIKE HELL YOU DON'T.

FINE, *FINE*. LET'S GO. I'M *STARVING* ANYWAY.

WANT TO GET *BREAKFAST*?

I THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER ASK.

SEVERAL SUBWAY STOPS LATER.



--AND SO,
WHEN **TOMBSTONE**
TOLD ME **SPIDER-MAN**
HAD BEEN SKIMMING
OFF THE TOP,
I BOUGHT IT.



I FEEL **RIDICULOUS**. I CAN'T
BELIEVE I FELL FOR IT. AND NOW
I'VE GONE FROM **FOLK HERO** TO
VIRAL VILLAIN IN WHAT SEEMS
LIKE NINETY SECONDS.

YEAH, WELL,
THAT'S LIFE ON THE
INTERNET.



I GUESS IT ALL...WENT TO
MY **HEAD**. THAT ONE LITTLE
MOMENT WHEN EVERYBODY
LOVED ME.

IT MADE ME
CARELESS. I WAS
PAYING ATTENTION
TO THE **WRONG**
THINGS.



YOU JUST MISS BEING A
SOCIALITE. YOU DON'T ACTUALLY
WANT TO BE THE BAD GUY--
YOU WANT EVERYBODY
TO **LIKE** YOU.

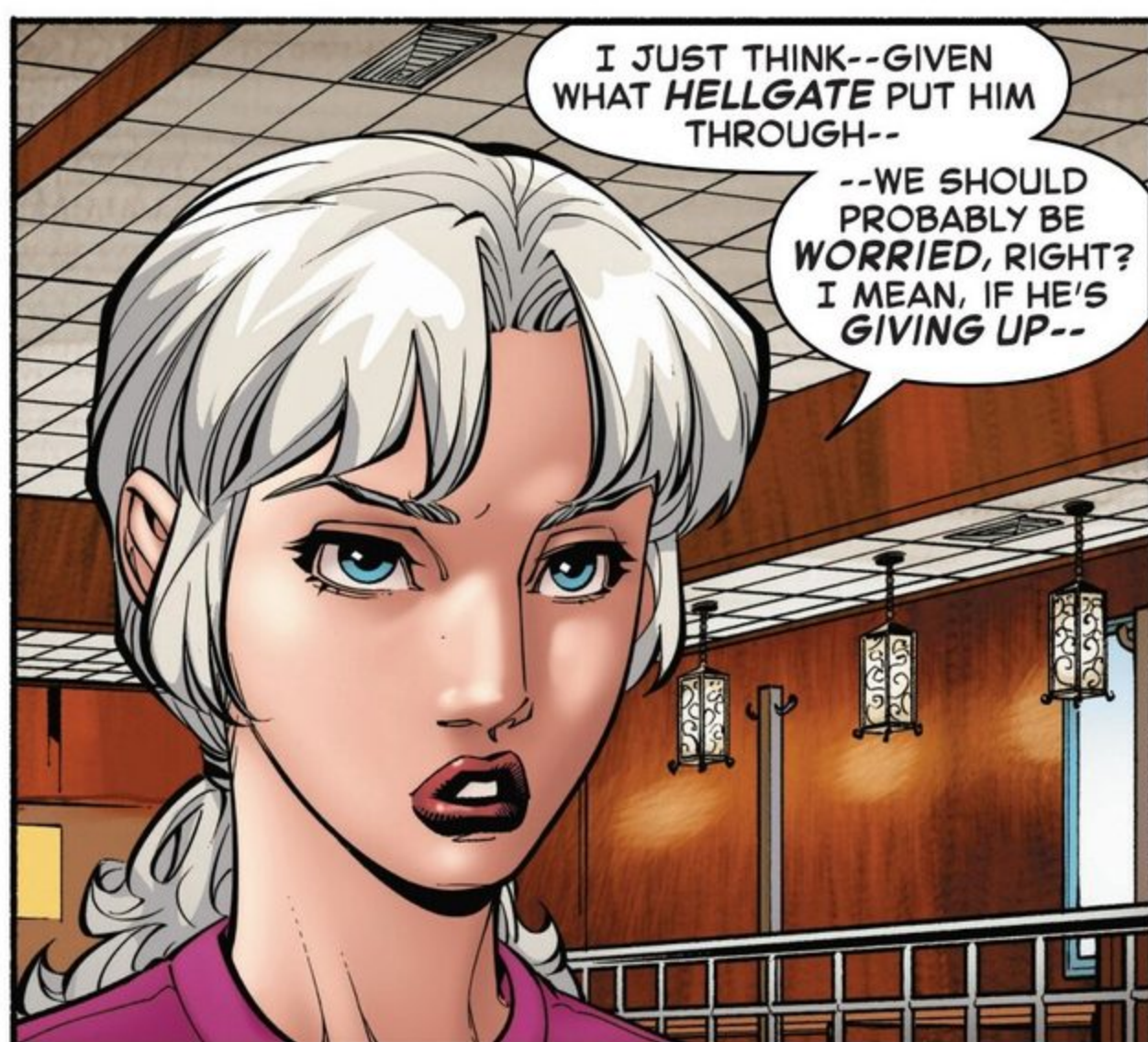
UNFORTUNATELY,
BEING **UNIVERSALLY**
BELOVED ISN'T REALLY
COMPATIBLE WITH
YOUR **JOB**.

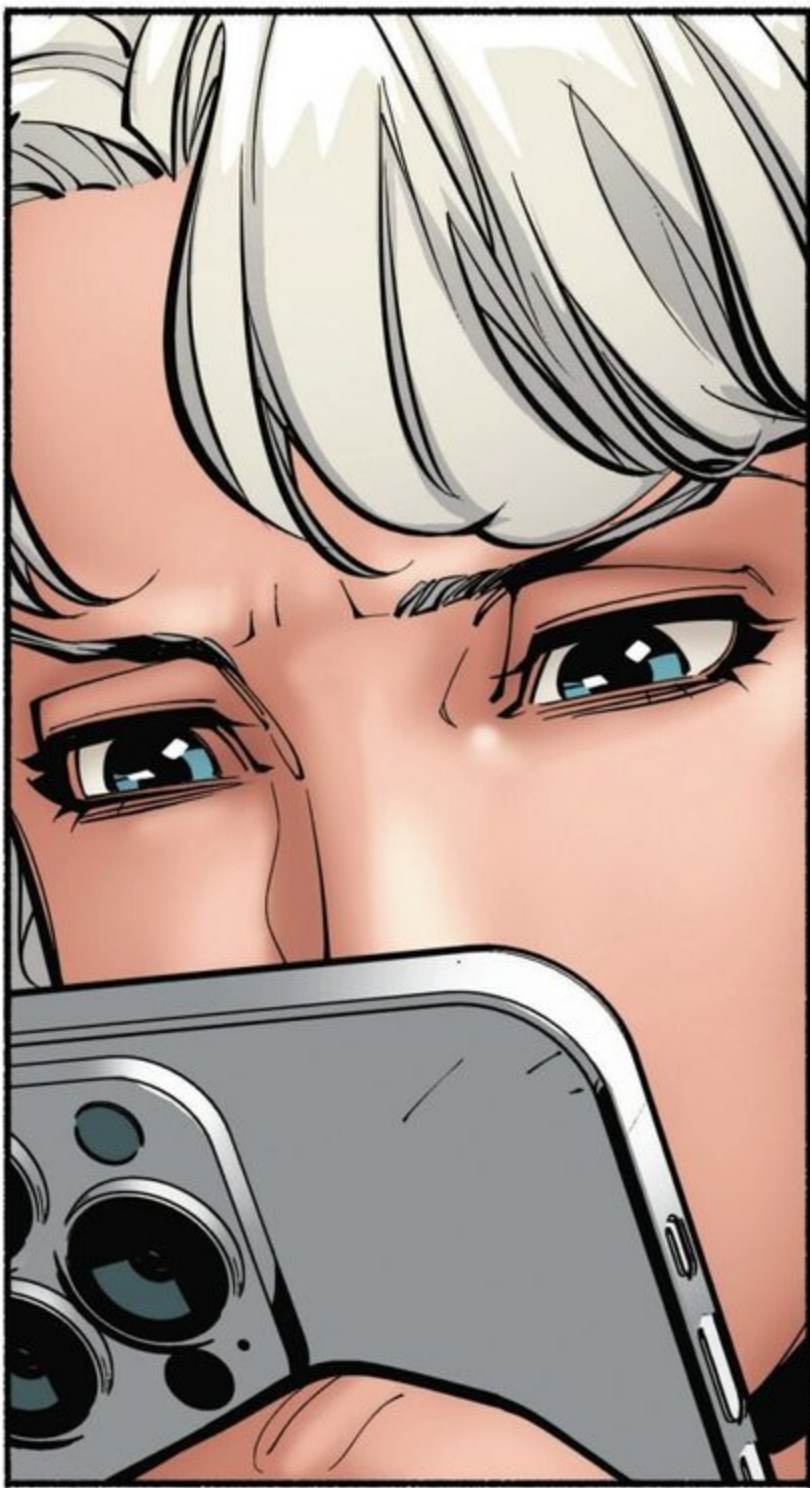


I HOPE
YOU'RE
WRONG.

BUT IF IT'S
A CHOICE BETWEEN
BEING AN **INTERNET**
HERO AND HAVING
LOTS OF **MONEY**,
I CHOOSE
MONEY.

AAAAND
THERE'S THE
FELICIA I
KNOW.





MAYBE
MJ WAS
RIGHT.

TNM **ALL A HOAX!**
BLACK CAT'S CRIMEFIGHTING
TURN JUST A STUNT!



MAYBE I SHOULD'VE
JUST WAITED FOR
THE INTERNET TO
MOVE ON TO ITS
NEXT TARGET.

BUT BY THAT POINT, I WAS IN
NO MOOD TO WAIT AROUND.

THAT'S IT.
I'M **SETTLING**
THIS NONSENSICAL
TABLOID FUNFEST
ONCE AND
FOR ALL.

FELICIA,
NO--DON'T PICK A
FIGHT WITH **THREATS**
AND **MENACES**,
YOU'LL JUST MAKE
EVERYTHING
WORSE--

OH, I'LL DEAL
WITH **JAMESON**
AND THAT CREW
LATER.

RIGHT NOW,
I'M GOING
STRAIGHT TO THE
SOURCE OF THIS
WHOLE SETUP.

DOOF!

WELCOME

I DON'T KNOW WHAT I
THOUGHT **TOMBSTONE**
WOULD **SAY**. HE'S NOT
EXACTLY FAMOUS FOR
EXPLAINING HIMSELF.

**SOMEWHERE IN THE
OUTER BOROUGH.**

THAT AFTERNOON.

AS FOR WHAT I
WOULD SAY? I
DIDN'T REALLY THINK
THAT PART
THROUGH EITHER.

YOU
OVERSIZED **GRUB**--
YOU THOUGHT YOU
COULD JUST **USE** ME
TO TAKE THE **FALL** FOR
ONE OF YOUR UNDER-
COOKED MONEY-
LAUNDERING SCHEMES
AND GET **AWAY**
WITH IT?

YOU'RE A
DISGUSTING,
SNOT-NOSED,
BIG, LITTLE...
CHEATER-CHEATER-
PUMPKIN-
EATER.

OKAY. MAYBE I
SHOULD HAVE
WORKSHOPPED
THAT ONE A LITTLE
BIT BEFOREHAND.

BWAHAHAHA!

STUPID
CAT.

WHAM!

ESPECIALLY SINCE
TOMBSTONE'S SENSE OF
HUMOR IS NOTORIOUSLY
SHORT-LIVED.





THAT'S NOT FAIR. I'M NOT VAIN.

I JUST... KNOW MY OWN WORTH.



BUT ENOUGH ABOUT ME. THAT'S NOT WHY I'M HERE.

WHAT'S THE STORY WITH THE CASH? WHY'D YOU SET ME UP IN THE FIRST PLACE?

I HAD A BUNCH OF DIRTY MONEY AND I NEEDED A WAY TO WASH IT CLEAN.

BEST WAY TO DO THAT WAS MAKE IT LOOK LIKE IT WASN'T ACTUALLY MINE. I NEEDED A FALL GUY TO EXTRACT IT FROM THE SAFE HOUSE.



NOW IT'LL GO INTO EVIDENCE, AND ONE DAY, IT'LL JUST...DISAPPEAR. RIGHT BACK INTO MY POCKETS.

SO THANKS FOR THAT. YOU'VE PAID OFF MY ROLLS.



BE SEEING YA, CAT.

SOONER THAN YOU THINK.

DADDY ALWAYS TOLD ME THERE'D BE DAYS LIKE THESE.

WHEN ALL THE LUCK IN THE WORLD CAN'T SAVE YOU FROM YOURSELF.





BUT YOU
KNOW WHAT? SINCE I
GOT **MYSELF** INTO THIS
MESS, I CAN'T EVEN BE
MAD ABOUT IT. BECAUSE
BEING MAD AT YOURSELF
ISN'T **GOOD**
FOR YOU.

SO I'M
GOING TO GET
MYSELF A LITTLE
TREAT. AND
TOMORROW...

...TOMORROW IS
ANOTHER DAY, AND
I'M ALIVE, RIGHT
NOW, **RIGHT** NOW, IN
THE GREATEST CITY
IN THE WORLD.

IT'S NOT ALL
BAD. NOT BY A
LONG SHOT.

NOT
YET.



NEXT: NIGHT COURT

SPIDERS & SYMBIOTES

THE LOWE-DOWN

WEB-HEADS!

We're bundled up here in the Big Apple, dreaming of curling up with a comic in front of a fire. Maybe one book is VENOM #252, which flips the paradigm set in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #252 where Spidey got a controversial new black costume. In VENOM #252, Venom goes all red and blue! For the hows and whys, look to AL EWING and PACO MEDINA on the main story and an awesome backup by JORDAN MORRIS and JESÚS SAIZ! AGE OF REVELATION comes to an end this month too, so

I hope you've all been loving RADIOACTIVE SPIDER-MAN and CLOAK OR DAGGER. As two things end, one begins with RYAN NORTH and VINCENZO CARRATÙ's new series HULK: SMASH EVERYTHING!!! This book, with incredible covers by ADAM KUBERT, is truly bananas and delivers on the promise of its title in ways that only Ryan North could dream up with his crazy mind. Better read it before Hulk smashes YOU!

Keep Thwippin',
Nick Lowe
Spider-Editor

NEED YOUR SPIDER-FIX WHILE YOU WAIT FOR NEXT ISSUE?

THWP-LIST

- ☐ HULK: SMASH EVERYTHING #1
- ☐ VENOM #252
- ☐ SPIDER-GIRL #7
- ☐ SPIDER-MAN NOIR #3



- ☐ MILES MORALES: SPIDER-MAN #41
- ☐ ALL-NEW SPIDER-GWEN: THE GHOST-SPIDER #5
- ☐ INFERNAL HULK #2
- ☐ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #17
- ☐ MARVEL KNIGHTS: PUNISHER #3
- ☐ PLANET SHE-HULK #2
- ☐ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN: TORN #3



- ☐ RADIOACTIVE SPIDER-MAN #3
- ☐ BLACK CAT #5
- ☐ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #18
- ☐ CLOAK OR DAGGER #3
- ☐ MARVEL ZOMBIES: RED BAND #4
- ☐ PREDATOR KILLS THE MARVEL UNIVERSE #5
- ☐ MARVEL KNIGHTS: THE WORLD TO COME #5

THIS MONTH'S HOST



NAME: Kaitlyn Lindtvedt

TITLE: Assistant Editor

WORKS ON:

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, MILES MORALES: SPIDER-MAN, SPIDER-GIRL, MARVEL MEOW & MORE!

WHO IS YOUR IRL SUPER HERO?

Oh, man. Jane Goodall. But also Hayley Williams. But also my four favorite college professors. But also my closest friends. Good people doing their best to build more safe spaces for their communities, always.

WHICH SPIDER-MAN VILLAIN DO YOU MOST RESONATE WITH?

Hallows' Eve. She's just a spooky sad girl trying her best, and we love her for it!

IF YOU COULD GIVE YOUR YOUNGER SELF ONE PIECE OF ADVICE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

You are enough, exactly as you are.

EMERALD BENSADOUN, KAITLYN LINDTVEDT & KAEDEN MCGAHEY - Assistant Editors
MARTIN BIRO & TOM GRONEMAN - Associate Editors JORDAN D. WHITE - Senior Editor
NICK LOWE - Executive Editor

**PANEL OF
THE MONTH:**

VENOM #252
page 10, panel 2
art by PACO MEDINA
& FRANK D'ARMATA



EDGE OF THE **VARIANT-VERSE** >>>>>>>>

We in the Spider-Office are no stranger to variants, we've got a Spider-Verse full of 'em. It's hard to narrow it down, but check out our favorite variant cover of the month.

HULK: SMASH EVERYTHING #1
Variant Cover by
ADI GRANOV



GAMMA CORNER

IS HE SPIDER, OR IS HE SYMBIOTE...OR IS HE NEITHER?

DEFENDER NO MORE!

The Infernal Hulk has commanded all the horrors of the world to rise up and take back the planet! He's headed into the ocean deep for a submerged ally! His former ally and teammate, Namor, doesn't take kindly to the formerly-Jade Giant making waves! Defender becomes Offender in this battle that might leave some imperious wrecks on the ocean floor!

Far away in space, Jennifer Walters, the savage She-Hulk, tries to keep the peace on a planet that only knows war. Don't miss PLANET SHE-HULK #2!



INFERNAL HULK #2
On sale 12/10

MARVEL
UNLIMITED



Your favorite game **MARVEL RIVALS** comes to life in comic form in **TWO** weekly Infinity stories, creatively labeled **MARVEL RIVALS** and **MARVEL RIVALS UNLEASHED!**

NEXT



#6
ON SALE:
1/14/26